



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

July 9, 2003

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members
FROM: Carl Osaki, Member
RE: PROPOSED CREATION OF A SEPARATE CHAPTER FOR LARGE ONSITE SEWAGE SYSTEMS, WAC 246-272B

Summary

RCW 43.20.050(2)(b) directs the Board to:

Adopt rules and standards for prevention, control, and abatement of health hazards and nuisances related to the disposal of wastes, solid and liquid, including but not limited to sewage.... And to adopt standards and procedures governing the design, construction, and operation of sewage ... waste collection, treatment, and disposal facilities.

Rules for large and small onsite sewage systems are currently combined in Chapter 246-272 WAC. The Department of Health (DOH) recommended creating a separate chapter for large onsite sewage systems (LOSS) to simplify rule revision processes. In May I directed Board staff to sign a CR-101 to explore creating a new chapter that would contain those parts of Chapter 246-272 WAC applicable to LOSS, without any material changes.

Currently a rule development committee is working on substantive changes to the parts of Chapter 246-272 WAC that are applicable to smaller onsite systems. The Board heard an update on this rule development process at its May 14 meeting, and expects to hold a CR-102 public hearing on draft rules in March 2004. A separate LOSS chapter would allow adoption of a completely revised Chapter 246-272 WAC.

Once a separate LOSS chapter is adopted and effective, DOH expects to file a new CR-101 to initiate the rule development processes for substantive changes to this chapter. This process will include somewhat different stakeholders and address different combinations of agency jurisdictions and issues.

Today the Board is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the proposed creation of Chapter 246-272B in WSR 03-12-089. As of July 2, 2003, DOH and the Board have not received any public comment on this proposal.

Recommended Board Action

I recommend the Board consider the following motion:

The Board adopts the changes to Chapter 246-272 WAC and the creation of Chapter 246-272B WAC as proposed in the CR-102 (WSR 03-12-089) and directs the executive director to file a CR-103 accordingly.

Attachments